

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending and allowed. By this Amendment, claims 10, and 12-23 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added.

It is respectfully submitted that entry of the Amendment is proper as the amendment would place the application in condition for allowance. Further, the amendment does not raise new issues requiring more than nominal consideration by the Examiner.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 10, 12, 13, 15, 22, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Cok (U.S. Patent No. 6,831,407). The rejection of cancelled claims 10, 12, 13, 15, 22, and 23 is moot.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

On page 4 of the Office Action, claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cok, in view of Fujita et al. (U.S. Patent 6,758,538). The rejection of cancelled claim 14 is moot.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

On page 5, claims 1 - 9 are indicated as allowed.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge

the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

Respectfully submitted,

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